

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4485
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
FRAGILE COAST LINE
SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a fragile coast line in India;
- (b) if so, the magnitude/dimensions of the components of shore line, beach line, coast line, attraction/focal points for tourists, rehabilitation of fishermen, water pollution protection from drains, protection of coral reefs and development of forests; and
- (c) the details of the concerned departments, which plan, develop and construct above components in terms of their structure and functions?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b) & (c) :The coastline of India is around 7500 kms which includes coastline of the main land and the group of islands of Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar. The coastal stretches of the country have diverse geomorphological and ecological features, including sandy beaches, sand dunes, mud flats, cliffs, barrier islands, estuaries, lagoons, and other features. These diverse geomorphological features not only determine functioning of the coast but are also home to diverse ecosystems and species. Due to this interdependence of biotic and abiotic features, the entire coastline of the country is important.

The total area covered by mangroves in the country is 4871 sq. km and that of corals/coral reefs 2330 sq. km. An area of 15,048 hectares have been identified in the coastal States for coastal shelter belt plantation. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 lays down guidelines for development of beach resorts/hotels for the purpose of coastal tourism. Reconstruction /construction of dwelling units of fishermen are permitted beyond the No Development Zone of the CRZ. Under the same notification discharge of untreated municipal or industrial waste into the sea is prohibited.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests is responsible for conservation and management of mangroves and coral reefs and for implementation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991. This Notification regulates specified activities in the coastal zone. The Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry is responsible for activities related to fisheries and aquaculture. The Department of Ocean Development carries out scientific studies and monitoring of the seas. The problems related to coastal erosion and sea wall construction are looked after by the Ministry of Water Resources.